

W. C. BOONE  
PASTOR

2-1  
MAIL ADDRESS  
P. O. BOX 42

## WOODLAND BAPTIST CHURCH

WALLACE ROAD AT SHADY LANE  
JACKSON, TENNESSEE 38301

Pastor's Residence:  
307 Mothingside Drive  
Feb. 21, 1967

Mr. Wayne S. Welch,  
B. S. U. Director,  
Western Ky. State College,  
Bowling Green, Ky.

Dear Brother Welch:

Your letter of February 17 has been received.

The manuscripte written by my great grandfather John Burnam was turned over to Dr. F. M. Masters when he was writing his "History of Baptists in Kentucky." I do not remember his ever returning it to me: if so, I have no idea where it is now. It was written by hand on yellow legal size ruled paper, and covered several pages, seven or eight as I recall. I think most of it is quoted by Dr. Masters in the history, pages 116 and 117: I am sure you have a copy of the book.

I do have some interesting facts about John Burnam handed down in the family. He moved to Bowling Green from Richmond, Ky. when a young man. His daughter, Nancy, married William A. Cooke, who was my grandfather, for whom I was named. My mother was Eddie Belle Cooke and she married A. U. Boone, then pastor at Smith's Grove, later at Clarks-ville, and then for thirty two years of the First Church, Memphis.

A Convention was held in Bowling Green about 1861 of Southern Sympathizers, who went so far as to set up a Provisional Government of Kentucky to join the Confederacy. John Burnam was to be State Treasurer, when Kentucky seceeded from the Union, but this never happened. I think there is a bronze tablet giving some of this information at the Museum building there at Western. John Burnam was a wealthy man for those times, owning considerable property and a number of slaves. All this was confiscated later by the U. S. Government, including his home, which stood on the lot where the Bowling Green High School now stands. He was a deacon in the First Church for many years. I think he died in 1891.

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I have some Confederate money that was found in my great Grandfather's secretary (desk) after his death. It might be that the Museum at the College there would like to have a piece of this.

My Grandfather William A. Cooke was a Methodist, but joined the Baptist church with his wife. His five children, including my mother grew up in the First Church. One of my mother's brothers, John G. Cooke owned a home on Chestnut St., which was bought by the church, and the building covers most of that lot. For years, until recently, an old carriage stepping stone with name Cooke which had been in front of my uncle's house, still stood on the sidewalk in front of the church.

I have known all the pastors of the church personally since E. V. Baldy (1893-1899) See Master's History, page 116. I was not born in Clarksville, Tenn, where my father was pastor, but in Bowling Green, as my mother went home to be with her mother and her doctor brother (A. Bennett Cooke) when I was born.

Now I am sure most of this is of no interest to you, but if your history is to be of considerable length, some of this might be utilized.

I was glad to hear recently of your assuming the position of Student Secretary there. While I was General Secretary in the State our Board, with some help from the First Church, bought the lot and built the B. S. U. Building across from the Campus. Chester Durham can tell you all about this.

If and when I go to Louisville, I shall be glad to stop by a few minutes and visit with you. However, I have no immediate plans for this, and if you have any questions suggested by the matters discussed above, I shall be glad to hear from you again.

Sincerely yours,

*W. C. Boone*  
W. C. Boone.

*Excuse my typing:  
I have no secretary  
now!*